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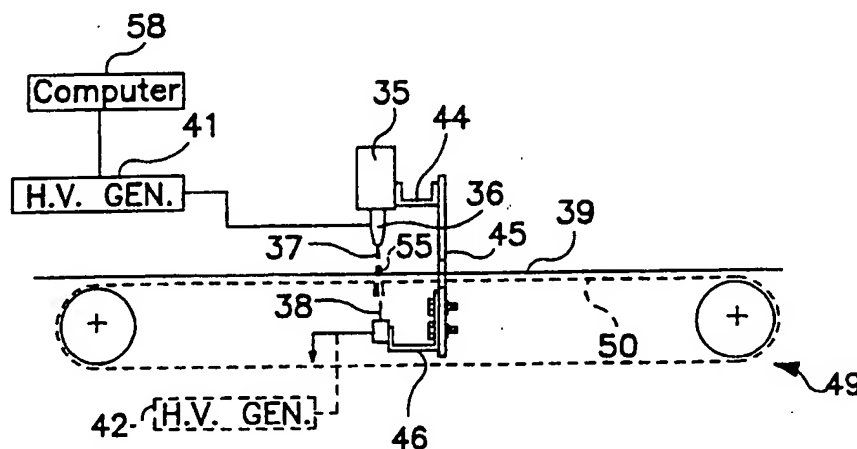
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **METHOD FOR APPLICATION OF A FLUID ON A SUBSTRATE FORMED AS A FILM OR WEB**



(57) Abstract: A method for application of a fluid on a substrate formed as a film or web or laminate in which the substrate is located between two spaced apart electrodes for generating an electrostatic field. An electrostatic field is generated on each side of substrate and a fluid is introduced as droplets for application to the substrate into the electrostatic field on at least one side of the substrate, forming electrostatically charged droplets. The electrostatically charged droplets are directed based upon a predetermined pattern onto the at least one side of the substrate. In accordance with one embodiment, the electrode on the side opposite to the side on which the droplets are introduced is used to cause the droplets to migrate into the interior of the substrate.

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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 B05D1/04 A61F13/15

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 B05D A61F D06M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
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|            | ---<br>-/--<br>---  |                       |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents:

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- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

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| C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT |   |                       |
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| Category *   | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No. |
| X  | WO 96 00548 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE)<br>11 January 1996 (1996-01-11)<br>claim 1<br>figure 18<br>page 38, line 4 - line 9<br>--- | 17-21                 |
| X  | WO 96 00549 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE)<br>11 January 1996 (1996-01-11)<br>claims<br>figure 2<br>---                               | 17-21                 |
| X  | US 5 827 255 A (CRAINIC SORIN)<br>27 October 1998 (1998-10-27)<br>claims<br>---   | 22-26                 |
| X  | EP 0 600 454 A (KIMBERLY CLARK CO)<br>8 June 1994 (1994-06-08)<br>page 2, line 41 - line 56<br>figure 2<br>---              | 22-26                 |
| X  | US 5 149 563 A (COLLIER SCOTT M)<br>22 September 1992 (1992-09-22)<br>claims<br>figure 3<br>---                             | 1,7                   |
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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 13-16

Present claims 13-26 relate to a product defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, namely "comprising at least one anisotropic property in at least one of an X-, Y-, and Z-direction". The claims cover all products having this characteristic or property, whereas the application provides support within the meaning of PCT Article 6 and / or disclosure within the meaning of PCT Article 5 for only a very limited number of such products. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Independent of the above reasoning, the claims also lack clarity (Article 6 PCT). An attempt is made to define the product by reference to a result to be achieved. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible.

Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be clear, supported and disclosed, namely an article with a liquid concentration gradient in the Z-direction (the thickness).

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

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